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- WALTER BAGEHOT -


| 4 | Fellowship News |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 5 | 23ออดอวบ? |  |  |
| 7 |  |  | Yuhanon Mar Policarpos Metropolitan |
| 8 | 21708000357700 |  2zm子 | Dr. Annie David |
| 9 | Trß36eJaso |  <br>  | Fr. Dr. K.M. George |
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| 15 |  | พง\|คู¢ | Adv. Varghese P. Thomas |
| 17 |  | ตி(గు) <br>  | Prof. Mathew Koshy |
| 19 | Cunaejuaso - 68 |  <br>  | Fr. Dr. Thomson Roby |
| 21 | 630 $02080030712^{\circ}$ |  | Aleyamma Varghese |
| 23 | Biblical Reflections | Leadership Models Through The Ages | Rev. Dr. M.J. Joseph |
| 25 | New Year Thoughts | The Divine Call | Adv. Nimesh Thomas |
| 27 | Wisecrack | Wisdom vs Foolishness | Susy Cherian Sankaramangalam |
| 28 | Pandemic Song | New Year In The Pandemic Era | Sabu George Kadammanitta |
| 29 | Reflections | ASK...SEEK... KNOCK... | Leela Kuruvilla |
| 31 | Christian Vision - 38 | Let Love Rule Our Homes | Prof. Dr. T.V. Thomas |
| 33 | Thoughts Afloat | MAGIC OIL OF FAITH | O.C. Cherian Ooramvelil |
| 35 | Last Page | The Church is Open ... (Psalm 122) | M.G. Kuruvilla |

## Fatemp News

## ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE OF K.C. CHACKO

The $73^{\text {rd }}$ death anniversary of Sri K.C. Chacko, the founder of the Fellowship House, was duly observed in a solemn function on September 15, 2020. The meeting was arranged
 strictly following the Covid protocol and restricting the number of participants.

## ADMINISTRATIVE MEETINGS

The annual administrative meetings of the Fellowship, Council and Association of the Alwaye Fellowship House, which used to be held in the month of September every year along with the remembrance of Sri K.C. Chacko, had to be postponed due to the corona scare, but the meetings could be conducted in December 2020 strictly following the Covid protocol.

## THANKING GOD...

Last nine months have been a period of great caution, but not of anxiety, at the Fellowship House, especially since around 100 senior citizens are staying in the Chacko Homes. Strict precautionary measures were taken and all co-operated to maintain the Covid protocol. By God's immense grace, all the residents remain safe till date. We take this opportunity to thank God for the care and protection we have been experiencing.

## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We are happy to inform that we did not miss the Christmas Carol Service this year, in spite of the corona scare. An in-house Prayer Meeting was arranged on the Christmas Eve, strictly following the Covid protocol and restricting the number of participants. Dr. Annie David gave the Christmas message, and the Chacko Homes Choir rendered the Carols.


Dr. Annie David giving the Christmas Message


Chacko Homes Choir

## NEW YEAR PRAYERS

The New Year was welcomed with a short prayer session on the morning of 1st January 2021, strictly following the Covid protocol and restricting the number of participants. Sri. Kuruvilla M George gave the New Year message. Let us pray for an year free from the fears of corona and other epidemics as well as natural calamities.

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Join the company of those who make the barren places of the earth fruitful with kindness． Carry a vision of Heaven in your souls and you shall make your home，your school，your place of work and your world correspond to that vi－ sion．Your success and happiness lie within you． External conditions are the accidents of life；its
other trappings．The great enduring realities are love and service．Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow． Resolve to keep happy and your joy shall form an invincible force against difficulty．Happiness cannot come from without，it must come from within．It is not what we see and touch or that which others do for us which makes us happy．It is that which we think and feel and do first for the other fellow and then for ourse／ves．




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"Gender inequality and women empower-












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 empowerment refers to the creation of an environment for women where they can make decisions of their own for their personal benefits as well as for the society" (1995-mb































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 கேபธியிை8 "The declaration on the elimination
of violence against women＂ஊ）（ロவృコロの
 defines as any act of gender－based violence that results in，or is likely to result in，physical，sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women， including threats of such acts，coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty，whether occurring in public or in private life．＂றற レவவృロロー
 due diligence to prevent，investigate and in ac－ cordance with national legislation punish acts of violence against women，whether those acts are perpetrated by the state or by private per－ sons＂毋（毋）ஸ゙．


















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 and girls are victims of countless acts of vio－ lence．The range of gender－based violence seems endless at times，occurring literally from womb to tomb＂๑） $\mathrm{m}_{\text {M }}$ United Nations Popula－














 until the half of our population represented by women and girls can live free from fear，violence and everyday insecurity，can we truly say we live in a fair and equal world．＂గัட（ต）









 ＂Arise，awake and stop not till the goal is
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# Leadership Models Through The Ages 



Leadership in community is a must for the growth and stability of any community. A leader is not born! He is like a shepherd who cares for the sheep. Like Jeremiah, the Prophet, he sits where his people sit. Like Nehemiah, he has an inner unrest for the broken lives. Like Andrew, he searches for the resources in the community. Like Paul, "he is all things to all people." Like Jesus, he is eager to minister and not to be ministered unto.

The efficiency of leadership is known through one's dedication to his/her work. The sign of good leadership in the community is manifested through one's management of Men, Material, Money and Machinery. A good leader is one who knows that "the results are obtained not by solving problems, but by exploiting opportunities".

I would like to discuss TWO types of Biblical leadership par excellence. They are (1) the MOSES MODEL and (2) the NEHEMIAH MODEL. In any model of leadership in the community, one's ability to decide, capacity to evaluate and courage to establish authority are significant.

## I. The MOSES MODEL

Moses was called by God to free and to lead the people of Israel from Egypt. But he had doubts about his ability to undertake such a difficult task. He resisted God by bringing up his unworthiness - lack of authority (Ex. 3:13), fear of people's
distrust (Ex. 4:1), speech difficulty (Ex. 4:10) and sheer cowardice (Ex. 4:13). Finally he had to surrender to the will of God. There should be a sense of divine urgency in all leadership. The Lord said, "I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering" (Ex. 3:7). In any event of liberation, the leader has to respond to a call, an inner constraint and compulsion. Moses attains wisdom as he gets nearer to God. Moses assumes the role of an executive. Humility, nobility, ability and stability are the hallmarks of his dynamic leadership. He offered his best to the cause of God.

What is remarkable in Moses is his organizational skill. He had the humility to listen to the wise counsel of his father-in-law, Jethro. In Ex. 18:14 we read, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand about you from morning till evening?" V.17: "What you are doing is not good. You and your people will wear yourselves out..." Jethro advised him to "recruit men of integrity, men who FEAR GOD, are TRUSTWORTY, and who HATE A BRIBE" (v. 21). Moses was asked to share his powers with other officials. A genuine leader should trust others and he should also build leadership qualities in others. Talents are not equally distributed. But each is expected to be faithful. "What we
have is God's gift to us. What we do with what we have is our gift to God". A leader is accountable to God and to his people. "Faithfulness" is the divine norm for all good leadership. Success may not always be possible. How faithful are we in the little things entrusted to us? He who is faithful in little things will be made responsible for bigger things (Matt. 25:23).

## II. The NEHEMIAH MODEL

Nehemiah was a palace servant of Artaxerxes I at Sua in Elam. He was a builder of high repute. He was pained to hear about the sad plight of the Jews who returned to Jerusalem with Zerubbabel. He was a man of action who set out to build a wall and he left an enduring legacy of leadership.

In the re-building of the wall, which was destroyed by fire, he had to face fierce opposition from the local politicians, Sanballat and Tobiah. Sanballat and Tobiah, who also had Jewish backgrounds, preferred to maintain the political status quo (Neh. 2:10). They made sarcastic comments about the plan of Nehemiah. "If a fox goes upon it, he will break down their stone wall" (Neh. 4:3). As a leader, he raised the morale of his colleagues who were demoralized and discouraged. He leaned heavily upon God. He trusted in God and said "Our God will fight for us" (Neh. 4:20). He exhorted the people "to rise up and build". One needs the courage and common sense for undertaking all difficult tasks. The prayer of R. Niebuhr is worth remembering: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference between the two." Nehemiah exhibited keen foresight (Neh. 2:8) and he took clear decisions. He had
an amazing sense of identification (Neh. 4:10-12). He expressed righteous indignation when he heard about the sad condition of the people. "I was angry when I heard their outcry" (Neh. 5:6). Do we get angry for others' rights? He knew that a wall was necessary for preserving the identity of the people. The temple had been rebuilt 100 years before, but the idea of a wall was kept in abeyance. A wall around the city is a symbol of dignity and vision.

As a leader, Nehemiah "was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame." He had the courage to reprimand the rulers (Neh. 8:18). "Cowards die many times before their death; the valiant never taste of death, but once" (Julius Caesar). One should not forget that "the rising tide lifts all the boats." Nehemiah achieved his goal and "the wall was finally built" (Neh. 6:15).

What are the abiding lessons that we learn from this man of vision? (1) He set his goals direct. He knew that greatness lay not in rank, but in service. "Today's impossibilities are tomorrow's miracles". (2) He was quite direct. A leader should have the following qualities: (a) He has to state his expectations clearly. (b) He must think things through. (c) He must confront problems immediately. (d) He should separate his anger from his assertiveness. (e) He should avoid empty threats. (f) He should be calm in a crisis.

To sum up: The power of inspiring others to service and sacrifice will make a good leader. Battles are won with the power of the Spirit (Zach. 4:6). In Nehemiah, we have a remarkable blending of all leadership qualities, a leader who struggles hard for the realization of a dream. He knew that faith alone would breed faith and that pessimism would only beget unbelief.


The author is inviting our attention to the need for listening to the Divine Call for a better life in the New Year
'Man proposes, God disposes' is a familar saying. Man thinks everything takes place according to his pre-planned steps. But it is not the reality. Man has conquered almost everything - science, literature, art, religion, but not time. Man is still unable to conquer time. When yesterday becomes history, and tomorrow is a mystery, what guides man is his dedication and hard work of today.

Today, or to be more specific, this very moment, is the only reality. We actually forget to live in this moment; instead, we think and worry about the future. We plan, re-plan, and again re-visit our future in our sleep and in our dreams, until it ultimately disturbs our peace of mind.

Take life as a gift of God. Do things according to the Divine Call. To hear that call, we should listen. It is not about when that call will come. But it is all about when we should listen to that call. We have to keep our minds and hearts open.

It is not with our ears, but with our hearts that we should listen to that call. Actions adopted and executed in accordance with this call will make one's life meaningful and realistic.

Now the main question to be addressed is how and when to receive this CALL.

Look back and introspect. You may have
noticed many things in life and called those moments a matter of 'co-incidence'. But actually, those moments are cases of 'God-incidence'. When you face situations which require you to make decisions, it is the decision made in accordance with the divine order/plan that will be effective.

To be more specific, our life itself is a divine call. Each and every moment should be in accordance with the divine order. There are many practices which will add colour and glow to our divine nature. The saints, holy fathers and motivational gurus, took life in accordance with the divine call.

Get less attached to the material world and its attractions. Make our lives more God-centred. Observe the trees, flowers and creatures around. Respect and love them. Develop an attitude of contentment and satisfaction. Develop a sense of gratitude. Learn to say 'Thank you'. Achieve your goals through hard work and dedication.

Your actions shall always end up on a positive note for the overall benefit of the society. Our existence on this beautiful planet itself is God's big gift and the way in which we live it should make the Creator happy!!!

The author is a practicing Advocate and former National Chairman of UNI-Y(YMCA).

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## Wisdom:

Wisdom is the ability to think and act using knowledge, experience, understanding and common sense. Foolishness is the unawareness or lack of social norms which causes offence, annoyance, trouble and injury. An act of foolishness is called folly. It differs from stupidity, which is the lack of intelligence. Wisdom is a wonderful attribute that offers you safety, protection and insight. No one is born with wisdom, but it is given freely by the Lord to anyone who seeks it earnestly.

King Solomon is considered to have been the wisest man that ever lived. He gives practical insights and guidelines for life. Where does wisdom begin? From where do you receive wisdom?

Proverbs 1:7 says - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline."

Proverbs 2:6 says - "The Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Proverbs 9:10 says - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."

Why is wisdom so important in your life?

Proverbs 4:5-9 says - "Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget any words or swerve from them. Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you. Love
her and she will watch over you. Wisdom is supreme; therefore, get wisdom. Though it costs all you have, get understanding. Esteem her, and she will exalt you; embrace her, and she will honour you. She will set a garland of grace on your head and present you with a crown of splendour"

Proverbs 24:14 says - "Know also that wisdom is sweet to your soul; if you find it, there is future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off." Knowledge is good, but there is a vast difference between "Knowledge" and "Wisdom". We may amass knowledge from schools, universities and from learned people. But without wisdom, our knowledge is useless.

## Foolishness:

We have all done foolish things; but we don't all qualify as fools. Occasional foolish behaviour goes with being human. It can be embarrassing to recall, but we learn from our mistakes and become careful not to repeat them. Even when we are older and wiser, we still do some foolish things. It is because we are human. Sometimes we are so optimistic about our own choices and we don't see the pitfalls ahead of us. We must learn from the consequences of our own folly. This is not the ideal way to learn, but it is a way that
(Continued on page 30)


May all who breathe see God in each other, Accepting all as sisters and brothers...
Keep united to fight the corona virus;
Keep distance to prevent its deadly spreading...
We stand at our balconies, doorways and windows...
To hail our fighters- Hindus, Christians, Muslims and Jews...
They are our Healers... our Heroes...
And women, no less strong, proved their mettle in the battle.
A month before Christmas 2019, the pandemic erupted...
And spread to continents afar at lightning speed...
We called it Novel Corona, the planet's worst ever pandemic! It changed everything, the way we lived, kings and commoners!

Contagious, deadly and dreaded it was...
Countries and continents it did not spare...
Travels banned and airplanes grounded...
Borders closed... air, sea and land.
As lockdown started, the economy halted...
People stayed at home and masked their faces and their feelings...
When summer emerged, lockdown was lifted...
While the monster virus roamed unlocked...
Christmas came with carols and stars
With New Year waiting round the corner
Let "Immanuel" the God with us, deliver us from Corona...
Let the joy of Christmas bring in a New Year of blessings+++


The Bible verse in which the three key words "Ask, Seek and Knock" appear is so familiar that most of us can easily fill in the blanks in the title. At times when I am alone, I like talking to God, thinking mostly about some known biblical verses; it can be a day-dreaming, meditation or whatever... And thus I really enjoy my solitude. Now let me give my perspective of these three words: ASK, SEEK and KNOCK.

ASK: Asking is a very common task. We ask our children to do something, we ask our spouse for some opinion, or we ask our neighbours if we need some help; we can ask anyone, anything, any time without much effort. We can ask even an unknown person for some help, if need be... There is no guarantee however of the response; they can say 'NO'; then we can ask the next person or think of an alternative. For example, if we ask our children to tidy up their room, they may say, 'Oh, I'm too tired' or 'I am too young to do all this work'. We have to see that they are just not ready to accept responsibility. Very often we say 'I can't' when in fact we will be thinking 'I won't' for reasons best known to us.

When Peter told the lame man to get up and walk, he did not say 'I can't.' He believed that the power of God could heal him; so he stood up and walked leaping and praising God. We know all things are possible with God. If we ask our Lord for
something, with faith as small as a mustard seed, He will surely answer if it is really needed at that time. Our job, therefore, is to keep asking with trust and persistence, till our prayers are answered.

SEEK: Seeking is a bit more difficult. If we lose something, we have to search for it, and it involves some physical effort. It's not as easy as asking and getting 'Yes' or 'No'. If we have to seek a lost article or a lost way, we need to be more focused and keep concentrating on what we are seeking.

To seek GOD, we have to focus our thoughts, words and deeds. Seeking is an endeavor to find some thing, or to achieve. So we must create a rapport with our Lord and work hard to seek Him. We must be persistent in seeking the will of God.

KNOCK: In common parlance, knocking is just like ringing the calling bell in front of a house. Knocking or ringing the bell is a common practice. While knocking, we are very close to the destination but not still IN. We may hesitate a little when knocking at a stranger's door because we are not sure of the response. When we are known to the person inside, we can go and knock without much thinking; knocking or ringing can continue till he opens the door.

Similarly, when we are closer to God, by praying persistently, beyond asking and seeking, we can have the confidence of knocking, believing that the door will open. Our risen Lord is waiting for us.

Now let us fill in the blanks of the Title: Jesus said, "ASK and it will be given to you; SEEK and you will find; KNOCK and the door will be opened to you." (St. Luke 11:9). Incidentally, I read this portion in my daily morning Bible reading and that has prompted me to share my thoughts.

In the fast modern world, we need
everything fast; we need immediate gratification of our prayer requests, but that may not happen always. God has his way and timing of answering our prayers. So we have to be patient; we have to continue asking, seeking and knocking without giving up till we get His blessings. I have personally experienced it many a time in my life. He knows our heart, our intentions and our needs; He will surely open the door and pour His Holy spirit upon us.

Wish you all a wonderful experience of Asking, Seeking and Knocking in the New year 2021.
(Contd. from page 27)
seems to work. In Proverbs 12:15, we read - "The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice."

Proverbs 18:2 - "A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions." Fools think they are always right and they like to speak their own minds.

The Bible tells us that a fool's behaviour is chronic.

Proverbs 26:11 - "As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly." A fool is blind to any suggestion that his behaviour might be inappropriate, because his ways are always right in his own eyes. Wisdom is when we see the truth and adjust our lives accordingly. Foolishness on the other hand is when we demand that truth adjust to our reality. Wise people listen. Fools dismiss or ignore. Thomas Fuller says, "A fool's paradise is a wise man's hell." Are you a wise person or a fool? How do you know? What happens internally when you consider the demands of God's law? Are you the kind of person who embraces God's commandments, however imperfectly? Are they your delight? Are you the kind of person who
resists God's laws? Dismiss them? Ignore them? Are you a wise person or a fool?

The Psalmist is clearly wise. "Oh, how I love your law!! It is my meditation all day." "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth." "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." The Psalmist loves God's words; loves God's Law and Commandments. He makes no excuse for his sin. He doesn't hide his shortcomings. Sadly, so many among us are fools. They sit in our pews and attend our worship services. As the Apostle Paul says in Romans 10:2, they have a "zeal for God but not according to knowledge." They do what is right in their own eyes. They do not have bad intentions. They simply are misguided. As Paul says in Romans 1:21-22 - "Although they knew God, they did not honour Him as God or give thanks to Him." Claiming to be wise, they became fools. We must learn to trust God's ways above our ways, God's thoughts more than our thoughts, and God's will more than our feelings. But "if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).


The woman went inside the house and told her husband what they had said. The man was overjoyed and said, "How nice! Since that is the case, let us invite Wealth. Let him come and fill our house with wealth." His wife disagreed and said, "My dear, why don't we invite Success?" Their little daughter was listening to their conversation from the corner. She jumped in with her own suggestion, 'Would it not be better to invite Love? Our home will then be filled with love"! The husband said, "Let us heed to our daughter's advice; let us invite Love. Go out and invite Love to be our guest." Love got up and started walking towards the house. The other two, Wealth and Success, also got up and followed him. The woman was greatly surprised and asked Wealth and Success, "I invited only Love; why are you coming in?"" "If you had invited any one of us, Love would have stayed out. But since you invited Love, wherever he goes, we go with him," replied Wealth and Success. Where there is love, there is also wealth and success, followed by peace.

Try to fill our homes with love. Then we will no doubt become much blessed with wealth, success and peace of mind.

## Ah, love let us be true

To one another, for the world which seems To lie before us like a land of dreams So various, so beautiful, so new.

- Mathew Arnold, "Dover Beach".


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KITCHEN ${ }^{m}$ TREASURES

## Thoughts Afloat <br> O.C. Cherian Ooramvelil <br> MAGIC OIL OF FAITH


sat on a wall jutting into the river in front of my house. The weather was good and the water was flowing calmly. A man came in a small country boat, mending some ducks, a scene which is becoming rare on the country side. This took me down memory lane to my school days, when we would eagerly wait for the holidays because it was the golden opportunity for us to visit our ancestral home on a river bank and to be with our grandma for a few days. The grandma fills our memory space.

Our days there used to start with the morning prayer, after which we would come out with a cup of jaggery coffee, sit on the river bank and enjoy the scenic beauty. The river would be glittering like a steel plate under the sun's rays. The morning view included fishermen in row boats casting their fishing nets, packed passenger boats passing every 15 minutes, dancing green paddy fields across the river, schools of fish swimming about, birds chirping and flying around which included kingfishers diving deep into the water and coming out with small fish in their beaks.

One such memory that stood out was the swarm of ducks that swam in the river guided by someone in a small boat. Keeping their sharp-eyed heads up, these ducks paddling with webbed toes, cutting through the surface waves were a scene worth watching. Their peaceful, calm and graceful movements were quite a blissful
and attractive sight. What we could learn from this was that when they moved, their aim was only the destination ahead and were not distracted by the surroundings.

So how do these birds float on the water when they spend most of their life on land. When these ducks are at rest their beaks collect an oil - like secretion from their glands and using their beak they apply this oil over their feathers. This is done on a routine basis to keep the feathers oily. These oily feathers help them keep afloat on the water and move forward.

What do we learn from this? This current COVID situation has shattered some of our dreams and calculations to a certain extent. But if we get disheartened and swallow the situation into our systems, we will be inviting a setback for all our future actions. So, let us realise that this pandemic is a global phenomenon which we need to accept positively and do our best to come out of it. We are not alone in this.

For a smooth passage through the turbulent waters of life, let us also anoint ourselves with the 'MAGIC OIL OF FAITH' and move forward. If this process of anointment continues, we will be at peace and we will be able to move ahead and stay afloat confidently, courageously and comfortably. It is not going to be a smooth journey, but in the end we will definitely emerge victorious.

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## TENURE: 1 YEAR TO 5 YEARS



PSALM 122
Vs.1: I was glad; when they said unto me, "Let us go unto the House of Jehovah." Vs.4: Whither the tribes go up....... To give thanks unto the name of Jehovah.
Vs.6: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.
Vs.7: Peace be within thy walls, And prosperity within thy palaces.

Reading the Bible everyday can be a ritual; but with application of mind, it becomes a study... and, it can also be a pilgrimage adding to your spiritual experience rather than to your intellect. On one such day my eyes fell on Psalm 122 , coinciding with the announcement of opening of churches and temples for congregational worship, unlocking the lockdown, but limiting the number of devotees.
We were unable to visit our churches/temples for about nine months, after the corona scare erupted. It created a great divide in our churchoriented life. Some people redefined the necessity to go to church and some gave a sigh of relief as there would be no call for subscriptions and donations. When the churches later resorted to innovative ways to reconnect with people, some took it as a means to extract money. Be that as it may, many people regularly attended online services and sent offertory and other dues online without exploiting the situation.
It is against this background that I shared the happiness of King David when he was invited to enter the House of God. Anyone who really missed his/her church-life, and is eager to go to church can share this feeling... Actually, did you miss your church?
If you feel happy to see the churches open and people enter therein, you can appreciate verse-4, "Whither the tribes go up... to give
thanks to God." Not only that, they had a purpose: "To pray for the peace of Jerusalem" (Vs-6). This tells us why we should go to the churches/temples: To give thanks to God and to pray for peace of the motherland. A fond wish follows this prayer: "Peace be within thy walls; and prosperity within thy palaces." (Vs-7)
Yes, palaces and prosperity we have, associated with the institution - church/temple; but what about peace? We feel an urge to go to the church when we are in absolute need of peace - our own mental peace! But do we ever pray for peace in our country or at least in our locality? We rarely do so in our personal prayers; but in a common prayer meeting we will pray for everybody and everything, as there are many to listen! When we are alone, we care for our own needs only. I am not blaming or criticizing this but requesting to stretch your arms wide enough to embrace the society as well.
Some people resort to drinks and music in the hope of drowning their worries, but real happiness and contentment remain a dream for them. Listen, after a lockdown King David is entering the Temple of God; let us join him, and rejoice that the church is open... Let us thank God and pray for peace as a congregation... It leaves me wondering how a few lines written about 3000 years ago squarely apply to us today!!! The Word of God is alive and relevant to you and me... as much as it was to the Israelites.

